

L.168.925

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Expendible Tray for Displaying Moist Foodstuffs

We, PAUL TAYLOR DEVELOPMENTS LIMITED, a British Company, of Broadgate House, Coventry, Warwickshire, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The invention relates to an expendible tray for displaying moist foodstuffs for sale in shops. It is commonly found that moisture draining from the foodstuff forms a puddle in the tray and gives rise to unsightliness and the risk of the accumulated moisture being spilt when the tray is moved. The object of the invention is to mitigate those disadvantages.

According to the present invention, an expendible tray, for use in displaying moist foodstuffs for sale, is formed as a sandwich of three plies of material, the plies which define the inner and outer surfaces of the tray being of impervious material and the middle ply being of absorbent material, and the ply defining the inner surface being provided with apertures through which moisture in the tray can pass into the absorbent ply and being embossed to define drainage channels leading to the apertures.

Preferably, at least the ply defining the its inner surface is of opaque material.

According to a further feature, at least two opposite edges of the middle ply terminate short of the corresponding edges of the plies defining the inner and outer surfaces so as to leave marginal portions which are adhered together.

In the accompanying drawings:—

Figure 1 is a perspective view of one form of tray in accordance with the invention, and Figure 2 is an enlarged sectional view on the line 2—2 of Figure 1.

The tray shown is made from three plies of material respectively indicated at 10, 11 and 12. The middle ply 11 is of absorbent material (e.g. blotting paper), and plies 10 and 12 are

of impermeable sheet material (e.g. polystyrene), with ply 12 being the thicker to give rigidity. Ply 10, which defines the inner surface of the tray, is provided with perforations 13 and the three plies are adhered together. The ply 10 is embossed in a regular pattern to define drainage channels 14 leading up to the perforations 13.

It is contemplated to make each tray by pressing a length of the three plies between moulding surfaces, and for the ply 11 to be of a width equal to that of the bottom of the tray it is to form. In this way the ply strips 10 and 12 are left with overlapping marginal portions by which they can be adhered together and which will form two opposite up-standing edges of the tray.

In use, moisture will drain into the channels 14 and then pass through the perforations 13 to be absorbed by ply 11. Should the moisture be coloured (e.g. be beetroot juice or blood from a steak) ply 10, but preferably both plies 10 and 12 can be opaque so as to obscure the absorbed moisture.

The trays can be made very cheaply and can be discarded when the purchase has been taken home.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. An expendible tray, for use in displaying moist foodstuffs for sale, formed as a sandwich of three plies of material, the plies which define the inner and outer surfaces of the tray being of impervious material and the middle ply being of absorbent material, and the ply defining the inner surface being provided with apertures through which moisture in the tray can pass into the absorbent ply and being embossed to define drainage channels leading to the apertures.

2. A tray, according to Claim 1 in which at least the ply defining the inner surface is of opaque material.

3. A tray, according to Claim 1 or 2, in which at least two opposite edges of the middle ply terminate short of the corresponding edges

[Price 4s. 6d.]

of the plies defining the inner and outer surfaces so as to leave marginal portions which are adhered together.

- 5 4. An expendible tray, for use in displaying moist foodstuffs for sale, substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

*This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale*

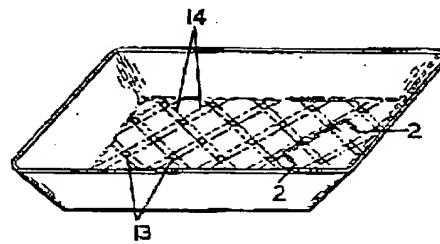


FIG. 1

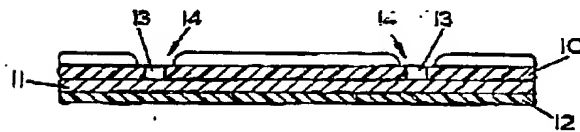


FIG. 2